United Nations S/2017/499

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 June 2017

Original: English

Identical letters dated 13 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 31 May 2017 from the Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs, Sartaj Aziz, addressed to the President of the Security Council, drawing attention to the grave human rights situation in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian intensification of barbarities since the extrajudicial killing of Kashmiri leader Burhan Wani on 8 July 2016 and, more recently, his successor, Sabzar Ahmad Bhat, on 27 May 2017 (see annex).

It is requested that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council, in connection with the item entitled "The India-Pakistan question".

(*Signed*) Maleeha **Lodhi**

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Annex to the identical letters dated 13 June 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 31 May 2017 from the Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Foreign Affairs addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to bring to your kind attention the grave and dire human rights situation in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian barbarities have intensified after the extrajudicial killing of Kashmiri leader Burhan Wani on 8 July 2016. The Indian occupying forces continued to use live ammunition and pellet guns against the protesters, as a result of which more than 200 civilians were killed and around 20,000 were injured. The Indian occupation forces carried out a mass-blinding of the Kashmiri youth, including women and children, by deliberately targeting their eyes with pellet gun shots. This is the first incident of mass-blinding in human history. A curfew remained imposed in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir continuously for more than four months. Around 12,000 people were arrested.

The situation has further deteriorated fast since the Srinagar by-elections held on 9 April 2017. The people of Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir boycotted the sham elections to demonstrate their rejection of Indian occupation. As a result of gunfire, 10 innocent Kashmiris, including a 12-year-old boy, were killed and over 200 were injured. On 15 April, the Indian forces attacked a college in Pulwama, killing one youth and injuring more than 50 students. Since that attack, regular protests, particularly by the students, including female students, have been going on in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

In another attempt by Indian occupation forces to quell the freedom movement, a youth leader, Sabzar Ahmad Bhat, the successor to Burhan Wani, was killed on 27 May 2017 in Tral, in southern Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. In another incident, six people were killed in the district of Baramulla by the Indian army, which had dubbed them "infiltrators". The recent wave of State terrorism has killed 12 innocent Kashmiris.

After those incidents, spontaneous shutdowns and protests were observed in all districts and major towns of the Valley. Public transport went off the roads throughout the Valley. Schools and colleges were closed. The Indian occupation forces are continuing to use live ammunition and pellet gun shots against defenceless protesters. As a result, one civilian has died and about 50 have been injured, with many of them in critical condition. A curfew has been imposed throughout Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. Police arrested the Chair of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, Muhammad Yasin Malik, and held him on remand at Srinagar central jail for five days.

During this latest spate of oppression, many videos have surfaced showing Indian barbarities. One such video shows a man tied to an army vehicle as a human shield against stone-pelters. Instead of taking punitive action against the officer involved in this heinous crime (Major Gogoi), the Indian army chief awarded him a commendation card. This action by the Indian Government validates that it is encouraging and supporting its occupation forces to commit the worst form of State terrorism in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The current situation in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir is the result of the continued denial by India of the right to self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which was promised to them by the Security Council in numerous resolutions that have remained unimplemented to date.

As the President of the Security Council, you have a special responsibility with regard to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute. Despite the passage of seven decades, the people of Jammu and Kashmir still await the implementation of the Security Council resolutions that promised them the right to self-determination, to be exercised through the holding of a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations.

I would like to urge you to call upon the Indian Government to immediately stop the bloodshed in Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir and respect the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people.

(*Signed*) Sartaj **Aziz**